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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,780	08/26/2003	Pierre Rondeau	RP-00128-US25	2003
28735	7590	09/21/2005	EXAMINER	
BOMBARDIER RECREATIONAL PRODUCTS INC INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPT PO BOX 230 NORTON, VT 05907-0230			FLEMING, FAYE M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3616	

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/647,780

Applicant(s)

RONDEAU ET AL.

Examiner

Faye M. Fleming

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 28-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 28-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 29 recites the limitation "the tires". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 28-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haynes (6,105,721) in view of Katsuoka (4,527,831), further in view of Frank, et al. (5,026,119).

Haynes teaches an ATV comprising a frame; at least three wheels suspended from the frame, at least one of which is a front wheel and at least one of which is a rear wheel; a power unit for driving at least one of the wheels disposed on the frame; a straddle-type seat disposed on the frame, the seat including a main seat portion; and a

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steering member for steering at least one of the wheels. The at least three wheels comprise only four wheels, two of which are front wheels and two of which are rear wheels; each of the wheels includes a tire; and the steering member comprises handlebars. As shown in figure 3, Haynes teaches a right and a left passenger grab handles.

Haynes teaches the claimed invention except for a secondary seat portion rearward of the main seat portion. Katsuoka teaches a motorcycle comprising a straddle-type seat including a main seat portion 20 and a secondary seat portion 24 rearward of and adjacent to the main seat portion, wherein the secondary seat has a back rest and including a support 21. Based on the teachings of Katsuoka, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the ATV of Haynes to include a secondary seat rearward of and adjacent to the main seat portion to provide an improved seating arrangement.

Haynes in view of Katsuoka teaches the claimed invention except for a back supporting front surface resiliently mounted on the ATV to deflect longitudinally when subjected to a longitudinal load. Frank teaches a back support for motorcycles comprising a post 4 pivotable on a hub 5. The back support comprises a longitudinal adjustment and is biased towards the front of the ATV. As shown in figure 2, Frank teaches two laterally-spaced back rest supports 22. Based on the teachings of Frank, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify the backrest of the combination of Haynes and Katsuoka to provide support for a passenger's back.

With respect to the back rest, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to have the back rest positioned in front of the rear axis a specific distance, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art.

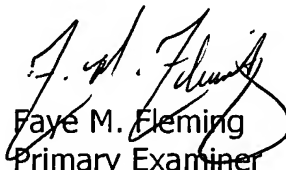
With respect to the air pressure, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to have a specific amount of air in the tires, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faye M. Fleming whose telephone number is (571) 272-6672. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Faye M. Fleming
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3616
09/15/05